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Vicksburg—Advised from Vicksburg, the mortar boats are still in position, and fire occasional shots. The work of enlarging the canal is still going on. Some 3,000 men being engaged in it. A scow had passed through the first canal, finding six feet of water. Some reports state that Vicksburg is to be reduced by siege, instead of bombardment. The Queen of the West has fallen into the hands of the rebels, up the river. It is reported that the Indiana has gone up, to retake her. Some accounts however, state that the destination of the Indiana is Black river, where there are a number of rebel boats.

Army of the Potomac—The rebel cavalry brigade, under the command of General Stuart, is reported to be in the vicinity of the Potomac, Feb. 27, 1863.

On Wednesday night, two rebel cavalry brigades (the 1st and 2nd) attempted to capture the Union cavalry at Kelly's Ford, and succeeded, by a strong attack, in breaking our thin line of cavalry posted at one or two points, capturing a number of our men. They crossed the river, and our cavalry outposts were brought up, the line immediately re-established, and a force sent in pursuit.

Our captures included two or three officers. The rebels failed in accomplishing their object, and retreated, in great haste, across the Rappahannock, falling back across the river and placing other obstacles in the way of the pursuing force. The cavalry sent out in pursuit have not yet returned.

The rebel cavalry were commanded by General Stuart in person.

One of the prisoners is Captain John Alexander, of the Second Virginia Cavalry.

Victory in Alabama—Memphis, Feb. 26.—Information is received from Corinth that on the 22d instant Col. Corwin, with the Tenth and Thirtieth Missouri Regiments, surprised the rebels at the battle of Corinth, and captured the city. Two hundred prisoners, a number of cannon, and a wagon train were captured.

Van Dorn, it is reported, has crossed the Tennessee river, at Florence, with 5,000 cavalry, to reinforce Gen. Bragg.

Arkansas—Hopedale, Feb. 26.—Hopedale, a town of 500 inhabitants, opposite this city, on the Arkansas river, was burned by the rebels on the 24th instant. The town was destroyed, and the inhabitants fled.

South Carolina—The rebels have been reported to be in the vicinity of the Potomac, Feb. 27, 1863.

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U. S. Mississippi Squadron, Feb. 27, 1863. By Memphis, March 2.

Hon. Gideon Wells, Secretary of the Navy.

Sir: I regret to inform you that the Indiana has also fallen into the hands of the enemy.

The rebels Webb and Queen of the West attacked her 25 miles from here and captured her. She surrendered, all of which can be traced to a non-compliance with my instructions.

I do not know the particulars.

The following description of the Indiana was clip from the columns of the Herald.

The Indiana is one of the new iron-clad gunboats, recently built at Cincinnati, Ohio. She is four hundred and forty-two tons burthen, and was built specially for service on the river.

According to plans issued from the Navy Department, she is one hundred and seventy-five feet in length, fifty-one and a half feet broad, six feet in depth of hold, and draws, with all on board, but six feet three inches of water.

Her bottom planking is five inches, of her lining three inches, of her side four inches, and of her deck one inch. Over all is a strong layer of iron plates, one inch thick, and ten inches square. She is flat bottomed and under a keel, for navigating shallow waters. Her sides spread out from the bottom to the deck at an angle of forty degrees.

At the stern, the deck is raised to a level with the water, for the purpose of giving the guns a better range. The guns are protected by a kind of casemate formed by the construction of the vessel, which gives it the appearance of a mud turtle. The most of the guns on this vessel was about one hundred thousand dollars.

Lieutenant George Brown was the last officer reported having charge of her.

Rebel Piracy.—The capture of the ship Jacob Bell, by the Florida. Halifax, March 2.

The steamer Delta, from St. Thomas on the 20th, and Bermuda on the 25th ultimo, has arrived at this port. She makes the following report.

On the 12th of February, in lat. 24 long. 65, the Florida captured and burnt the ship Jacob Bell, bound from China for New York. The Jacob Bell had sixteen hundred tons of tea on board, and was carrying a cargo of cotton and tobacco.

The passengers, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Johnson, and two Messrs. Bell, have arrived here in the Delta.

The U. S. steamer Alabama left St. Thomas on the 20th of February in search of the Florida.

The steamer Columbia ran the blockade at Wilmington, and arrived at St. George with a cargo of cotton and tobacco.

The Columbia reported the arrival at Wilmington, of the steamer Florida.

The Jacob Bell's cargo was valued at \$150,000.

The Vanderbilt was at St. Thomas on the 20th, to leave next day on a cruise. The federal ship, the Knappe, left St. Thomas the week previous, in search of the rebel ship Alabama.

Speeches were made by Mr. Johnson, Gen. S. F. Cary, Gen. Kimball and Lincoln, Hon. Henry Sevier, and others, and resolutions, expressive of loyalty to the Federal Government, were adopted.

Extra Session of the Senate.—WASHINGTON, March 2.

The President has issued the following proclamation:

Whereas objects of interest to the United States require that the Senate should be convened at 12 o'clock on the 4th day of March next to receive and act upon such communications as may be made to it on the part of the Executive; and

Now, therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, have considered it to be my duty to issue this proclamation, declaring that the Senate shall be convened on the 4th day of March next, at 12 o'clock, to receive and act upon such communications as may be made to it on the part of the Executive; and

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of a Court-Martial, but the state of the country seemed to render the arrest and trial of so important an officer impracticable.

Cassius M. Clay, in a note to the N. Y. Times, says that, in his judgment, Gen. Halleck is too pro-slavery in his sympathies, for a man in his position, and that he (Clay) has done all he could to induce the President to put Gen. Butler in his place.

State Anti-Slavery Society. At a meeting of the N. Y. State Anti-Slavery Society, held at Albany, last week, the following resolutions were adopted:

That we congratulate the people of the Empire State, and the friends of freedom everywhere, that in the past year, thousands of slaves have been emancipated.

That freedom now stands pledged to three million slaves.

That we will sustain the Emancipation Proclamation of Abraham Lincoln.

That we urge the immediate abolition of Slavery, not only as a military necessity, but as an act of justice.

That we recommend the emancipation of the South to be given to the freedmen, the legitimate proprietors.

Among the speakers present were Theodore Tilton, Parker Pillsbury, A. M. Powell, and Susan B. Anthony.

Gen. John Cochrane has resigned his position as Brigadier-General in the Army of the Potomac. His health is assigned as the reason, though it is also stated that he will enter some other field of action.

The Colored Representative from Hayti.—Last evening the diplomatic representative of the republic of Hayti, accredited by President Lincoln, arrived in town, in the person of a colored man, named James G. Thompson. He is a native of Hayti, and was educated in that country. He is now in the service of the United States, and is acting as a clerk in the State Department.

British Aid for Rebels.—A letter addressed to John Russell, and published in the London Daily News, states that a large number of suspicious vessels are fitting out, at various ship-yards, which he mentions, said to be destined for the Emperor of China, but probably intended for Confederate service. The writer charges British functionaries with "connivance" to the rebels, and violation of the neutrality policy.

Loyalty of Indiana.—A mammoth Union Mass Meeting held in Indianapolis on the 26th. The State House yard, in which it was held, was filled to overflowing, it being estimated that some 40,000 to 50,000 were on the ground. Speeches were made by Mr. Johnson, Gen. S. F. Cary, Gen. Kimball and Lincoln, Hon. Henry Sevier, and others, and resolutions, expressive of loyalty to the Federal Government, were adopted.

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## Family Miscellany.

For the Principia.

## DAILY DUTIES.

Do the duties of to-day.  
Do the duties plainest, nearest,  
Duties done should smooth thy way,  
And chase the clouds that thou fearest.

Do the duties of to-day.  
Nor faint with brooding sorrow;  
Duties drive distrust away,  
And glad with hope the morrow.

Do the duties of to-day.  
To Heaven's high throne they bind thee,  
Bear them upward on thy way,  
Nor let them lag behind thee.

Do the duties of to-day.  
In God, for strength, confiding,  
Make His promises thy stay,  
Beneath His wing abiding.

Do the duties of to-day.  
Who'er may frown or chide thee,  
Duties done are garlands won,  
Whatever griefs befall thee.

Do the duties of to-day.  
Though thanklessness requite them,  
Patient duties win the day,  
Against grievous wrongs, to right them.

Do the duties of to-day.  
Though plaudits fall to greet thee;  
Toilsome tasks shall pass away,  
And rich rewards shall meet thee.

For the Principia.

## LIFE'S CROWNING BEAUTY.

[Written on the occasion of the Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. A. Taylor, of E. Charleston, Mass. Feb. 11, 1891.]

I love the blithe month of Spring,  
The sunshine, and the showers,  
That renovate the earth, and bring  
The foliage, and the flowers.

I love the balmy month of June;  
I love the warm July;  
And August, with her harvest-moon,  
Gilding the azure sky.

Yet Autumn, with her golden sheen,  
Outshines the vernal Spring;  
And June, arrayed in her green dress,  
Can no such vestments bring.

But give me winter, old and grey,  
With all its garners full—  
I'll smile upon the past, and say—  
It far exceeds the whole!

The bound of human life we tread,  
At three-score years and ten;  
And all beyond that narrow space  
Is winter-time with men.

"The hoary head"—the silver hairs—  
I found in righteousness;  
Even now—a crown of glory wears,  
Awaiting Heaven's rest.

P. FIELD.

[We should like to receive further favors from the same pen.]

## LOVE.

Tell me not that earth is dreary,  
That the soul forlorn and weary,  
Not a single joy can find;  
Many joys and many pleasures,  
And a thousand precious treasures  
In life's garden are entwined.

While adown life's stream we're rowing,  
If love within the heart is glowing,  
All is joyous, gay and bright;  
But let that love fade away,  
And with its fading fades our day,  
Leaving us in endless night.

Love: God with all your heart and mind,  
And, as yourself, love all mankind;  
Your sky will then be clear;  
And life will now appear to be  
A desert lone, a dreary sea,  
All radiant will appear.

G. SPENCER.

## SONG.

The blackbirds sing in the hazel-brake,  
And the squirrel sits on the tree;  
And Blanche she walks in the merry greenwood,  
Down by the summer sea.

The blackbirds lie when he sings of love,  
And the squirrel, a rogue is he;  
And Blanche is a trifle, I'm sure,  
And light as a feather.

O blackbird, die in the hazel-brake,  
And, squirrel, starve on the tree!  
And Blanche—she may walk in the merry greenwood,  
You are nothing more to me!

THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH.

For the Principia.

## THE CHILDREN OF THE COVENANT, OR, THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY.

BY MRS. MARIA GODDARD FROST.

## CHAPTER VII.

## THE DANCING CLASS.

For several winters, a dancing-school had been talked of, in Elmwood, but the strong opposition of Mr. Stanley and Deacon Winters, and other good members of society, had prevented its success. It happened that a young lady had been employed in the academy, as teacher of French and drawing, who was also accomplished in dancing. After she had become established in her new location, she proposed forming a private class of young ladies, in that polite accomplishment.

This plan seemed to operate favorably in the minds of the people, as affording an opportunity to acquire ease of manner, without the evils attending a regular dancing-school.

The mothers and daughters prevailed, and the class was formed. Leila and Carrie Winters were upon the list, to the surprise of all, the grief of some, and the great satisfaction of others. If the deacon's family danced, who might not do so, with impunity. Mabel Stanley was of course urged to join. Could her name be obtained nothing was wanting to complete the triumph.

The child had little courage to ask her mother, for past experience had proved that the firmness of Mrs. Stanley was equalled only by her good judgment and sound sense. The case was therefore undertaken by Mrs. Winters herself, who called to see Mrs. Stanley, and urge upon her those considerations which she had employed to move the deacon's mind.

"Young folks will be young folks, Mrs. Stanley, they must have something you, know, and they will have something," she said, after unfolding her subject.

"Yet," replied Mrs. Stanley, "they need have nothing which is calculated to exert an unfavorable influence upon character."

"But what could be more innocent than a family of brothers and sisters engaged in a healthy and graceful exercise?"

"To confine dancing within the limits of the family circle, we all know, would be impossible. The thing has never been done, and probably never will be."

"But," said Mrs. Winters, "I can not bear to see my daughters grow up clownish in their manners; I want them to cultivate grace and ease. This is a rare opportunity. I can see no reasonable objection to a private class of young misses in a quiet village, like ours; it is not like a city, and it is impossible for the usual evils to result. Do you not think Mr. Stanley would allow Mabel to join?"

"I have never spoken to him upon the subject, as my own mind is so decided."

Mrs. Winters was surprised. She had talked to the deacon of little else, for three weeks.

"Well, I think you are a little too strict, with Mabel. The child's mind will be with the other girls, and where the mind is, the body must follow. Now Augusta Evelyn learned to dance, before she was married. The deacon never knew it, and I do not know as it ever did Augusta Evelyn any harm."

"Is Augusta a christian woman, now?"

"O, no; but I do not think her dancing had any influence to prevent her becoming a christian. She always had a very strong will; she has been through several revivals, but somehow, it seemed as if she could not submit."

"We have often talked together of our covenant vows, and you will take no offence if I express to you fully my own heart."

"Surely not," said Mrs. Winters, faintly.

"In view of such solemn obligations, I dare not pray to God for the salvation of my children, while I allow them to follow the maxims of the world. Allow me to say that the reasons you have been urging upon me, are the world's reasons; not one of them has any reference to duty or usefulness, or the eternal interests of our young church."

These solemn words made an impression upon Mrs. Winters' mind. She felt uneasy, in view of the truth, and secretly wished that something might occur to break up the class. The withdrawal of her daughters' names would accomplish this. But few people have moral courage to retrieve a wrong step, and Mrs. Winters, unfortunately, was not one of the few.

Mrs. Stanley felt the need of divine aid to support her footsteps, in the straight and narrow way. This she sought in her closet, from whence no mother ever came without a blessing.

It soon became evident to every wise and discerning parent, that there was little to be learned in the girls' department of the academy, that winter. What was to be done with Mabel, was the question. Mrs. Stanley soon invented a safe and practicable plan. Mabel had long desired to learn music, of which she was passionately fond. By a little self-denial, Mrs. Stanley could spare time to instruct her, and thus her mind would be agreeably occupied, at home. A part of each evening should be devoted to choice reading, or games in Geography and History cards, the morning must be filled with domestic duties, and the afternoon with music. Mabel was not indolent, and the idea of being useful pleased her, very much. Each day she had her portion of household duty to perform, and then with fresh zest she entered upon the recreation of the afternoon.

But life is not a smooth sea, and Mabel found, even under these favorable circumstances, more trials than she had grace to bear. Encouraged by her success, in assisting her mother, Mabel felt inspired with the new joy of well doing. She had never been a selfish child, and the pleasure she now found in amusing Frank, arranging her father's study, or her brother's wardrobe, filled her with new and strange resolves of goodness. But the trial was that however great and good her aims, they were very often upset by some unexpected circumstance, and Mabel was left in doubt of the possibility of ever becoming "good."

One day, a ride had been promised, and Mabel, in glad anticipation, had been careful to do her part of the work, thoroughly and well; several difficulties had been met and conquered, and now all was done, the sleigh was at the door, and Mabel, full of smiles, stood ready to be handed in, by her father, when an unexpected call obliged him to remain at home. It was too much for Mabel. She was cross and ill-tempered, all the rest of the day, and inwardly determined never to do well again. Mrs. Stanley said nothing. Had it been Clarence, a few words from mother would have brought out once more the loving smiles and pleasant smiles, but Mabel's disposition was different, and the only way seemed to be, to let her take her time. Clarence felt lonely and impatient, he begged Mabel to play for him, one of her new exercises, and offered to show her how to put together a dissected map; but all was in vain, Mabel sat, moody and silent, until Miss Densy, who had come to cut over a coat of Mr. Stanley's for Clarence, entered the room.

"So you don't go to the dance, to-night," said she. "Well, I am glad of it. You say so right, for all folks talk about her being so strict."

"What dance?" cried Mabel, slipping suddenly from her music stool.

"Why, I 'sposed you all knew: it's to the deacon's. I never was so beat, in my life. I wouldn't believe it, so I went up to all the deacon's of it, 'twas so, and Mrs. Winters said she, 'why Miss Densy! Where is the harm of a few neighbors coming in, of a winter evening, for just a quiet dance? there ain't nobody but the class, and Miss Ross and Miss Percy.' But says I, Mrs. Winters, 'if this is the beginning, where is the end?'"

"I should like to see the girls dance," said Mabel. "For I never saw any one dance, in my life. It must look very pretty."

"It does look very pretty, Mabel," said her mother, "and it seems very innocent. Should you see it, you could not avoid wishing to join, and as Miss Densy has remarked, where would be the end? Many a soul has been ruined by being thus led into gay and thoughtless company."

"Dear me!" said Mabel, to herself. "I wonder if mother is wiser than every body else, in the world?"

The company at Deacon Winters' was succeeded by a succession of similar ones, all over the neighborhood. They gradually increased in size, and young people from adjacent towns were invited, until the excitement became so great that the worthy deacon was seriously alarmed.

The dancing mania had spread like a contagion, and outside the class the accomplishment was sufficiently understood to create a general interest.

Edward and Leila could not be restrained. Carrie was compelled to remain at home, while her head was filled with the fashionable follies of which she heard so much. Charlotte Ross was delighted to find a rapid increase of business, in the line of fancy dresses, and other ball-room accomplishments.

The deacon could not say all that was in his heart, for his own children had led the way, into the evil he so much lamented. His lips were sealed, alike in prayer and exhortation.

Mr. Stanley's hope for a work of grace in Elmwood, that winter, had taken flight, although his prayers had not ceased, nor his efforts waned.

There was little interest in meetings, of young people never attended, except on the Sabbath, and church members grew formal, under the new dispensation. Mrs. Winters' eyes were blinded to the folly of her course, she had been led from step to step, rejoicing in Leila's beauty and grace, and furnishing her with all the means of display, her heart desired.

For the Principia.

## TEACHING DISTRICT SCHOOL.

"Come, boys! one of you tell a story, sing a song, or do something to drive the blues from a poor fellow!"

"What with hard marching, hard fare, and a rainy night into the bargain, I don't know who feels alive enough to sing; but if Joe will hold his hand over that hole in the tent, so the rain won't pour exactly into my organs of vision, and Hal will rub a portion of warmth into my frozen feet, I will tell you how I once taught a 'destrict school!'"

"Go ahead!" "Heart heart!" "Develop!" "Pin your knapsack over that hole, Joe! Do you call these two clogs of sacred soil your feet? Well, Hal, take off his shoes—I'll help you rub his feet. Come, Charlie, proceed!"

"Well, some nine years ago I was clerk in a large house in New-York—had got pretty tired of waiting upon customers—in fact, wanted a change. Had read many stories of city fellows teaching country schools, had known men who had married their pupils, had once attended a party in the country, where I was the lion of the evening—in short, thought it would be a fine thing to be looked up to, by the 'big' girls, who attended school for the sole purpose of winning the school-master's heart. I accordingly purchased a shawl, (shawls were just in fashion then, and mine would probably be the first one worn out of city limits), succeeded in coaxing into growth a moustache and imperial, and, brushing up my hair in a ferocious manner, I sat out to find a school.

After applying in about twenty places, and invariably receiving the discouraging reply that my important services were not wanted, I was at last successful—passed examination—and started from the School Committee man's, on Monday morning. (I will here state that the School Committee man was a bachelor, and probably chosen on account of having no particular interest in the school.) My cap sat jauntily on my head, shawl around my shoulders, in a dignified manner, as becoming a schoolmaster, and I wended my way schoolward, thinking of the blushes of the 'big' girls at my appearance, and the respectful demeanor of the smaller fry—I had an idea that country children always took off their hats to their elders, and treated them with great deference and respect. I was unconsciously roused from my reverie, by a shout of—"Clear the track! The train is coming! Clear the track, or you will be knocked into the middle of next week!"

Not being favorably impressed with such an expeditious method of killing time, I stepped quickly on one side and awaited the result. Two tow-headed boys, of about ten years' growth, with a large sled attached, on which was seated an enormously fat girl (I should judge) near my own age, rushed past me. Some of my new pupils, undoubtedly, I was shocked at their want of politeness, and my exalted idea of the goodness of country children fell an inch or more. I neared the school-house; a small brown building, whose—

"—simple walls were rife with many a queer device from school-boy knif, wherein the master bore conspicuous part."

Big boys and little boys were snow-balled and wrestling, and I was apparently unharmed by them. But what attracted my attention most, was a young lady of some fourteen winters, who was seated on an old log by the school-house door, throwing snow-balls, with great force and precision, into a group of boys. Return compliments from the young gentlemen were dodged by the damsel with remarkable agility. She was attired in a red and green plaid shawl, and a red hood pushed back from a freckled face, displaying her curly hair to good advantage. Her limbs were encased in blue jean stockings, and thick calf-skin shoes, laced with white twine, embellished her undergarments. As I passed her, she nodded in a familiar way, which I did not see fit to return, and winked to a group of girls who were standing on the doorsteps. As I passed in, one of these, a handsome, black-eyed girl, politely said, "Good morning, Sir," but immediately after, turned to the girl on the log, and asked, "Priscilla Ann, was that a man or a woman?" Priscilla, without a moment's hesitation replied, in a loud, sing-song tone, whether for my benefit or that of the boys, I do not know—

"I guess he is a chap who would be a young lady, if he could; but as he can't, do as he can, and be a man."

I opened the door into the inner veil of the temple of learning, with not quite so light a heart as I had left my boarding-place, and it did not add to my happiness to hear Priscilla remark, as I hung up the odious shawl, by a broken window:

"He has got just exactly twenty-one hairs in his moustache, and seven in his imperial. I counted them when he looked at me, as he went in."

This facetious remark caused the fat girl to hold her sides tightly to prevent being entirely shaken to pieces by her violent exclamations, and a red-headed youth, who was sweeping a path to the wood-shed, evidently considered it a good joke, as he repeated it, to the evident delight of the other young ladies and gentlemen. It was with a degree of satisfaction, amounting almost to positive pleasure that I, at this moment, beheld a huge snowball descend upon the curly head of Miss Priscilla Ann with such force as to cause that young lady to vacate her position on the log in a singularity unduly like the one before she had recovered herself sufficiently to vent her displeasure on the cause of her unlucky accident. I stepped to the door, and rang the bell.

Such a scampering—such a stamping of feet, to get the snow off—such a hanging up

of caps, shawls, and hoods—such a rush for the water-pail, as if they were all dying of thirst—such a slipping up of hair—such a petrified me with amazement. In about fifteen minutes they were somewhat subdued, and filed into their seats, puffing and blowing like so many young porpoises. I then procured a sheet of paper and a pencil, and proceeded to take down the names of my pupils. I noticed that Priscilla was absent, and asked the black-eyed girl—whose name, by the way, was Katy Perkins—if the young lady I had seen out of doors, with the red hood, and red and green plaid shawl, was expecting to attend school.

I sincerely hoped she would say 'no,' but to my dismay she replied in the affirmative, and the red-headed young man volunteered the information that she was out of doors—'giving it' to Bill Stearns, for hitting her with a snowball. At that instant, however, the door opened, to admit a young archer, with a very red face, and a large scratch across his nasal organ. He was closely followed by the subject of our conversation, who looked as calmly serene as if nothing had ever occurred to disturb the tranquility of her existence. Divested of shawl and hood, two long curly braids, terminating at the ends with a knot of bright red ribbon, and a yellow sack, profusely ornamented with white braid, came into view. She took her seat with Katy Perkins, and, as I afterwards learned, that young lady's particular friend and confidant.

The first day passed off, as well as could be expected, under the circumstances. I found out the names of the scholars, and arranged them in classes. Priscilla Ann behaved admirably, and was, to my surprise, further advanced in her studies than any of the other scholars. After school, she came to me with the request that I would proceed at once to board at her house, assigning, as a reason, that they had just made sausages, and it was consequently more convenient to have the teacher at that time. Being one of that class of teachers who are expected to 'board round,' I, of course, had no alternative but to accept the invitation. Upon this she informed me that she would wait, to show me the way to her house. I had but little to do, and was soon ready to accompany her. We proceeded on our way in silence; Priscilla making snowballs and eating them, as if her life depended on it. I found her parents well-to-do, honest, sociable, good-hearted people, and, though sausages were not my favorite dish, their were good, and I enjoyed my boarding-place far better than many of higher pretensions.

Time would fail me to tell of all that occurred that winter—of how Priscilla persisted in writing letters on her slate, and eating apples and snowballs in school—of how I fell head over ears in love with Katy Perkins—of how all my attempts to go home with her from spelling-school, Wednesday evenings, or from singing-school, Sunday nights, were frustrated by Priscilla, who clung to her with the tenacity of a drowning man to a straw—how, never, at either of those places, or at the many societies I attended that winter, did I get Katy's private conversation, for a little private conversation, that Priscilla's carotid arteries were not thrust between us, and as I turned despairingly away, I fancied I saw a malicious twinkle of her eye, fancied but soothed to my feelings. Just before school closed, however, I learned that Katy was engaged to a young farmer of the neighborhood. I had often met the fellow, but never dreamed of his having any serious intentions towards Katy. For once, Priscilla had done me good service! I left the school with many regrets—lost to my numerous disappointments, and annoyances, I had, on the whole, passed a pleasant winter.

Returned to the city, I entered at once the old store, and pursued the even tenor of my way. About seven years from the date of my memorable district school experience, Mrs. Ford, the good lady with whom I boarded, started us all, at the tea-table, with the information that a niece of hers, a country girl, was coming on to spend the winter with her. I heard the news with an inward pang, for, being the only single boarder, I should, of course, be expected to show the young lady some attention—and who would want to take an awkward country girl under his wing? A well, she came; a quiet, dignified girl, with blue eyes and brown hair, graceful and self-possessed. A little unsociable, I fancied her at first; but after being with her aunt, talkative Mrs. Ford, for about three weeks, the crust of reserve which had encompassed her began to wear away, disclosing a richly cultivated mind, combined with a quiet humor, which rendered her irresistibly fascinating. I escorted Miss Annie to numerous places of amusement, lectures, concerts and parties, till, before I realized it, the winter had passed. When she proposed going home I asked the pleasure of a correspondence, and, as an inducement, offered to share my name, fame, and fortune with her. What do you think the witch did? She just sat back in the rocking-chair, and laughed at me. When she had recovered, 'she little thought,' she said, 'seven years ago, that Mr. Brooks would ever have deemed Priscilla Stebbins necessary to his happiness. But he'd had a fair trial—if he would be tormented—'

"Why, boys, you're all asleep! Never mind!"

The soldier arose, and, fumbling over his knapsack, drew out a letter, directed in a delicate, lady hand, which, by the rapidly approaching daylight, he proceeded to re-peruse. Let us look over his shoulder. Yes: it commences "Dear Charlie," and is signed, "Yours, 'Priscilla Ann!'" so I guess she did conclude to become Mrs. Brooks—don't you?

SARAH T.

## SECOND-HAND CLOTHING.

"It is strange, isn't it," said Aunt Alice, "that whatever we may dress ourselves in, it is only second hand clothing after all?"

"Why Aunt Alice," said Minnie, with much earnestness, "I never wore second hand clothing in my life. We give away all my clothes to the poor. I would not go to a party in old clothes, above all things."

"And yet, dear, everything you have on comes to you second-hand. Indeed, you would not permit the creatures that first wore them to enter your parlor. You would quite likely shrink away, if they came near you. Yet you do not scruple to take their old garments, and even take much pride in wearing them."

"I cannot understand you, at all, Aunt."

"Well, dear Minnie, you know the silk of which that bright tissue is made, was spun by a crawling worm. He made it for his shroud, and when he was quite done wearing it, the silk-makers respun and made it over into this fabric. Those white gloves were once the clothing of a poor little animal, whose life had to be taken before his skin could be made over

for you. Then another animal must be sacrificed to make the soles of your satin slippers. Even the pearl ornaments you wear are the property of a oyster. The patient sheep must give his fleece to make a mantle to throw about you. So you see, dear, that it is a hard matter to lay first claim to anything we wear, and this reflection may be very useful to us when we are tempted to pride ourselves on our fine raiment. God looks to the heart, Minnie, and is more pleased with the 'ornament of a meek and quiet spirit,' than all the gems in the world."—N. Y. Chronicle.

MAN'S DUTY TO WOMAN.

Let him learn to be grateful to woman for this unobtainable achievement of her sex, that it is she, far more than he, and she, too, in spite of him, who has kept Christendom from lapsing into barbarism—kept mercy and truth from being utterly overborne by those two greedy monsters, money and war. Let him be grateful for this, that almost every great soul that has led forward the race, has been furnished for each noble deed and inspired with such patriotic and holy aspiration, by the retiring fortitude of some Spartan or more than Spartan—some Christian woman.

Moses, the deliverer of his people, drawn out of the Nile by the king's daughter, some one has hinted, is a loyal symbol of the fact that woman's better instinct always outwits the tyrannical diplomacy of man. Let him cheerfully remember that though the sneaky sex achieves enterprise on public theaters, it is the nerve and sensibility of the other that arm the mind and inflame the soul in secret.

"A man discovered America, but woman equipped the voyage." So every where; man executes the performance, but woman trains the man. Every off-stal person, leaving his mark on the world, is but another Columbus, for whose furnishing, some Isabella, in the form of his mother, lays down her jewelry, her vanities, her comfort.

Above all, let not man practice on woman, perpetually, the shameless falsehood of pretending admiration and acting contempt. Let him not exhaust their kindness in adorning her person, and ask in return the humiliation of her soul. Let them not assent to her every high opinion, as if she were not strong enough to maintain it against opposition, nor yet manufacture opinion for her, and force it on her lips by dictation. Let them not crucify her motives, nor ridicule her frailty, nor crush her individuality, nor insult her independence, nor play mean tricks upon her honor in convivial companies, nor bandy unclean doubts of her as a wretched substitute for wit; nor whisper vulgar suspicions of her purity, which, as compared with their own, are like the immaculate whiteness of angels. Let them multiply her social advantages, enhance her dignity, minister to her intelligence, and by many gentle means, be the champions of her genius, the friends of her fortunes, and the equals, if they can, of her heart.—Rev. F. D. Huntington.

THE BIBLE NOT CORRUPTED.

It is sometimes objected by skeptics, that the Bible has been through so many manuscripts and versions, that it is altogether uncertain whether it is essentially the same as it was written. But these people either know or are willingly ignorant that the Hebrew Bible—i. e., the Old Testament—is in the original language still, as also the Greek New Testament. Neither of these have been corrupted by translation, for they are in the same tongue in which they were written. Neither is the English translation essentially different from the original, as anybody who can read Greek or Hebrew can see for himself. Moreover, there is a manuscript at Rome which is 1400 or 1500 years old, and another as old or older has recently been found in the East, by the best scholars of the world, in the copy of the Russian Gospel, which is a translation of the Russian Gospel, which is a translation of the New Testament into the ancient Syriac, made, perhaps written, fifty years after the death of the Apostle John, and widely circulated in Asia. This has recently been translated into English, and is a valuable witness of the general accuracy of our common English New Testament. No one who carefully examines the subject, and who has a reasonable doubt that our means of knowing what the Apostles and Prophets wrote, are, in the main, as good as if we had lived in the second or third century.

WINTER SHOES.—Hall's Journal of Health gives the following sensible advice:

Like the gaunt old man that has withstood the ravages of a hundred years, man himself begins to die at the extremities. Keep the feet dry and warm, and we may snare our fingers in joyous triumph, at disease, and the doctors. Put on two pairs of thick woolen stockings, but keep this to yourself; go to some honest son of St. Crispin, and have your measure taken for a stout pair of winter boots; shoes are better for ordinary everyday use, as they allow the ready escape of the odors, while they strengthen the ankles, accustoming them to depend on themselves. A very slight accident is sufficient to cause a sprained ankle to an habitual boot-wearer. Besides, a shoe compresses less, and hence admits of a vigorous circulation of blood. But the best boots when you ride or travel. Give directions also to have no cork or India-rubber about the shoes, but to place between the layers of the soles, from out to out a piece of stout hem or tow-line, which has been dipped in melted pitch. This is absolutely impervious to water,—does not absorb a particle, while we know that cork does, and after a short time, when you ride or travel, the pitch, as they say, will melt, and the water, when you put them on, for the first time, they will feel as "easy as an old shoe," and you may stand on damp places, for hours, with impunity.

DR. NELSON AND THE BARREL OF FLOUR.

When Dr. David Nelson was once about leaving home, on a preaching tour, his wife said to him, "My husband, we have no flour in the house, and it will not do for you to leave me and the children without any thing to eat."

The doctor was in doubt, and sat down to consider what he should do. To go to the store would be a great disappointment. He determined to proceed, but told his son to take the oxen to the wagon and follow after him to see if the Lord would not direct them to some place where they might get a supply. A few miles on the road, was a mill, but it was owned by an infidel, who bitterly hated Dr. Nelson. The doctor, however, did not allow himself to be deterred by the infidelity, but went on, and to ask this infidel miller to furnish his family with flour, without the money, would not be a severe trial of his feelings, but most likely would be met with a refusal, and perhaps with curses. He proceeded, resolved that if the miller would, he would ask the infidel to sell him flour on a credit. He gave up his thoughts, as he rode along, he heard his name called by some one, and turning in the direction, he saw a little girl running towards him from a house that stood off the road, calling out, "Dr. Nelson!" "Dr. Nelson!" When she came up, she put into his hand a very little barrel, saying, "Dr. Nelson, here it is. It contained a five dollar gold coin, just the price of a barrel of flour, which was purchased at the mill, and sent home by his son."

The above fact was repeated by Rev. J. W. Cunningham.—Cent. Chn. Herald.

## WHY HE COULDN'T.

I read, lately, of a boy, who may name him John, if you like, who ran into the house one evening and said:

"Mother, Willie played truant this afternoon, and he wanted me to go too, but I couldn't."

"Because?" "Why not, my son?"

"Because," said little John, throwing his arms most lovingly round his mother's neck,

I thought it would make you so sorry, and that is why I couldn't."

"I wish I knew that boy. I would go at least a mile to kiss him. There is something so lofty in his reason for not going with Willie that I really love him. You see it was not fear but love that governed him. He couldn't play truant, because it would make his mother feel so sorry! Precious boy!—S. S. Advocate.

## TO PREVENT TOOTHACHE.

1st. Avoid taking cold, in any way whatever. If it cannot be done, break up the cold as soon as possible.

2nd. Avoid getting your clothes wet. If this cannot be avoided, continue in active exercise until they become dry, or until you are in a situation to change them for dry ones.

3d. Avoid getting your feet wet. If this cannot be done, continue in exercise until you are in a situation to dry them; then heat them often, especially the bottoms. This will often relieve, and sometimes cure, a troublesome toothache, especially if brought on by wet feet.

One who has tried what he recommends.—Prairie Home.

—We have politics and trade; and the daily dust of life rises with the morning mist, and settles with the dew; but over all things, serene, and silent, and starry, rises the heaven of a nation's soul—its literature.

—A head properly constituted can accommodate itself to whatever pillows the vicissitudes of fortune may place under it.

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